

IDEO/003 (PA1443US)

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action mailed on August 10, 2006. Claims 1-34 were examined. The Examiner rejected claims 1-15, 18-20, 24-26, 28, 29, 31, 32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Watanabe (U.S. Patent No. 6,686,958) in combination with Narayanaswami (U.S. Patent No. 6,657,654), claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Watanabe in combination with Narayanaswami and Raney (U.S. Patent No. 5,581,299), claims 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Watanabe in combination with Narayanaswami and Wakabayashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,097,285), and claims 27, 30, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious in view of Watanabe in combination with Narayanaswami and Parulski (U.S. Patent No. 5,943,603).

Applicants believe that the amendments to claims 1, 18, and 19 do not raise a new issue which would require an RCE because the amendments were derived from claims 21-23.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner acknowledges that neither Wakabayashi nor Narayanaswami teaches an automatic timer as recited in amended claims 1, 8, and 19. Wakabayashi teaches a self-timer which is set using a single button and two LED lights (see TABLE at col. 3, lines 55-64). This system is very awkward and could potentially confuse a user, whereas a GUI menu is intuitive and simple to use for any user familiar with any GUI system. Further, Wakabayashi provides no specific teaching on how to vary the time periods between exposures using his single button, two-light system. Therefore, claims 1, 8, 19, and dependents thereof are not obvious in view of Watanabe in combination with Narayanaswami and Wakabayashi.

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Conclusion

Based on the above remarks, Applicants believe that they have overcome all of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed on August 10, 2006 and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Kenyon Y. Ripple
Registration No. 55,769
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77056-6582
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846